



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

File No. 615

Senate Bill No. 1148

Senate, April 24, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REDEFINING "MEETING" FOR PURPOSES OF THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (2) of section 1-200 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2013*):

4 (2) "Meeting" means any hearing or other proceeding of a public
5 agency, any convening or assembly of a quorum of a multimember
6 public agency, and any communication by or to a quorum of a
7 multimember public agency, whether in person or by means of
8 electronic equipment, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the
9 public agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.
10 "Meeting" does not include: (A) Any meeting of a personnel search
11 committee for executive level employment candidates; (B) any chance
12 meeting, or a social meeting neither planned nor intended for the
13 purpose of discussing matters relating to official business; (C) strategy

14 or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; (D) a caucus of
15 members of a single political party notwithstanding that such
16 members also constitute a quorum of a public agency; (E) negotiations
17 between members of different political parties who are in a leadership
18 position, with respect to proposed legislation or a proposed action of
19 the public agency to which such members belong, notwithstanding
20 that such members also constitute a quorum of a public agency; (F) an
21 administrative or staff meeting of a single-member public agency; and
22 (G) communication limited to notice of meetings of any public agency
23 or the agendas thereof. A quorum of the members of a public agency
24 who are present at any event which has been noticed and conducted as
25 a meeting of another public agency under the provisions of the
26 Freedom of Information Act shall not be deemed to be holding a
27 meeting of the public agency of which they are members as a result of
28 their presence at such event.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2013	1-200(2)
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GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which exempts certain gatherings from being considered meetings under the Freedom of Information Act, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1148*****AN ACT REDEFINING "MEETING" FOR PURPOSES OF THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill exempts, from the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) open meeting requirements, negotiations between leaders of a public agency from different political parties, with respect to proposed legislation or a proposed agency action. The exemption applies even if the leaders constitute a quorum of the agency.

Under FOIA, a meeting is, with certain exceptions, any (1) hearing or other proceeding of a public agency or (2) convening or assembly of, or communication by or to, a quorum of a multimember public agency, whether in person or by electronic means, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the public agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power. FOIA requires that all such meetings, among other things, have a posted agenda, be open to the public, and have minutes available for public inspection within seven days of the meeting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 4 (04/05/2013)